

Illinois 'U' Rejects Illiteracy

The University of Illinois, with 23,000 students and 6,600 professors, has decided that it will admit no more high school graduates who can't read, write and spell!

In explanation, we have to go back 27 years to 1933. At that time our high schools were turning out the "fruit of the modern" educators, such as Dewey, Kilpatrick, Rugg and various other "frontier thinkers."

The education (?) and mental apparatus of their high school kids generally was so poor, that the Illinois University set up a special course in remedial English so that these freshmen might understand the words, at least, spoken by the professors and found in college textbooks.

THE UNIVERSITY, BEING a State institution, felt that it had to do what

the high schools had failed to do. The University believed that a college student should be able to read, spell and compose a clear sentence in the English language.

But yearly the situation got worse and the number of ignorant freshmen got larger and larger. And even one in five flunked this course!

Now the University has thrown up its hands, turned the job back to the high schools, where it belongs, and will now admit no freshman who can't read, write and spell.

Only work, discipline and sound methods can cure this mess. Otherwise, the billions of additional dollars the present "frontier thinkers" plan to give our teachers and administrators will fail to educate youth so that our freedom stands a chance to survive.

Pirates Still Roam The High Seas

Yes Sir, there yet remains within this ole human society something of the bold spirit of Bluebeard, Blackbeard, Capt. Kidd, Henry Morgan, Jean LaFitte and other famed buccaners—those adventurous pirates who plied the Spanish and other "Mains."

For future Eccentric writers of "Happenings of Long Ago," let us record the fact that a Portuguese revolutionary leader, Henrique Galvao, aided by 80 fellow-rebels against Portugal's dictator Salazar, seized the 20,000 ton passenger ship Santa Maria, controlled her for two weeks before allowing her 620 passengers to disembark in Brazil.

Galvao and his "crew" boarded the ship

in Venezuela as passengers, then "took over" after a short "battle", with one dead and a number injured. It was one of the strangest sea dramas in many decades.

EXACTLY HOW Galvao expected seizing the ship would help to overthrow Salazar back in Portugal was never revealed. Galvao was forced to bring the Santa Maria into Recife, Brazil, where Brazilian officers in turn took charge, planning to return the ship to its owners.

Galvao and his rebels were given protective asylum by Brazil. But those original passengers, 42 of whom were Americans, will have some tall stories to tell their great grandchildren. Pirates—oh, Boy!

Castro May Burn His Whiskers

The Castro regime in Cuba is still talking and acting defiantly. It still enjoys great popular support. But it has been hurt, and will increasingly be hurt, by the frontal attack which the Roman Catholic church has launched. It also has been hurt by the Organization of American States' decision to consider subversion within the Western Hemisphere despite Cuban opposition to such action.

The initial phase of the church attack was a pastoral letter in which the bishops of Cuba denounced the revolutionary government's increasingly close ties with Communism. The timing of this onslaught suggests a belief that the regime is losing strength among the people. The bishops seek to hasten the process.

indications that the government may make such a mistake. Even if the threat to Cuban Spanish-born priests and set up a depot national church is not carried out, deep trouble may arise from Castro followers' demonstrations against churchgoers. Though Latin Americans are not notably devout in their daily lives, the church has a powerful hold on their minds and hearts. The regime would flout this at its peril.

Support among intellectuals, and to a lesser extent among the masses, may be further weakened by the O.A.S. unanimity (excepting Cuba) in demanding that subversion and "present international tensions in the Caribbean" be probed. This demand will provide food for sober second thought about the "glories" of the revolution. Coupled with the church's attack, it constitutes a hard punch to the whiskers.

IN THIS THEY MAY SUCCEED, particularly if the regime comes to be in open conflict with the church. There are some

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

We join others in the belief that the Communist threat to our freedom is greater than we have appraised it. We trust that the Kennedy administration will enlighten not only the U.S.A., but all freedom-loving nations on this world danger.

In his first press conference, new and young Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara told the press corps that it would last only 30 minutes—no more. And that's what did happen, even though all the questions on reporters' lips were not answered. McNamara probably will find it more convenient to be not so abrupt. He will find that heading a public, tax-supported governmental agency is quite different from heading up a large private industry. Many others have.

Often you read about some person dying from a fire started in an over-stuffed sofa or chair, caused by a burning cigarette. Now that filters have reached maturity, maybe the manufacturers of the little white cigars will fashion cigarettes so that, unless puffed almost without interruption, they will go out.

Said a current humorist: "Too many Americans are going in for weight-lifting with the wrong equipment—a knife and fork."

Adlai Stevenson faces one of his greatest eras of self-discipline as our United Nations ambassador. Here is a man who is wealthy, has been Governor of Illinois, twice was the Democratic candidate for President; he is expected to be the voice of a youthful U.S. President, even though he, Adlai, for years has been able to reveal his own attitudes on domestic and world affairs without interference from others. If he can make his utterances subservient to Kennedy's he will have performed a remarkable assignment of self-discipline. But will he?

Have you any idea how our generation will dispose of the terrific U.S. national debt . . . other than to pass it on to the next generation?

The Duke of Windsor, Britain's former King Edward VIII, who abdicated his throne in 1936, "because I cannot live without the woman I love", is being severely criticized by a British member of Parliament, who holds that the Duke was doing nothing since he left the throne but to live the life of ease, idleness, and social inertia—and similar types of "doing nothing". The Duke's wife, the former Wally Simpson, has written in defense of their conjugal bliss. (Well, somebody once exclaimed "All is not gold that glitters.")

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 1225 Bowers Street. Telephone Midwest 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL
Managing Editor
DAVID F. GIBB
Advertising Manager

Rough Winter



PEOPLE'S COLUMN Needlework Guild Aids Youngsters at Hospital

To the Editor:
The contributions of clothing and money made by the Needlework Guild of America to emotionally disturbed children at Portne State Hospital are for real good results.

There are approximately 30 youngsters in the child psychiatry department. Almost all of these receive no support from their families. The state supplies them with work clothes—only these are of the coarse, uniform type, much worn and shabby.

One can hardly imagine the bewilderment and anxiety of a child newly admitted to the hospital environment. If he has been abandoned or his parents cannot support him, he comes with only the clothes on his back.

The Hospital issue of heavy work clothes has a vague and unintended resemblance to a prison uniform. It is then that the generosity of the Needlework Guild and its members has its greatest impact on the well-being of this very ill child.

From the Guild-provided wardrobe, the attendant selects a "Sunday best" outfit—gray slacks and an ivy league sport shirt, some tee shirts and play garments.

One can see the light of hope and pleasure flash from this youngster's worried eyes. The young patient, like all adolescents, needs to feel he is acceptably dressed.

It adds to his self-esteem and his security—both of which have been severely damaged by the events that brought him to the hospital.

THROUGH ITS gifts, the Needlework Guild tells these youngsters that they are not forgotten and passes them that their rehabilitation and return to society is essential to the community.

The generous contributions made to the hospital wardrobe have great importance. Often in many instances clothes of a special size must be purchased. Often the hospital does not have enough winter coats for the children—and the wardrobe fund supplied by the Guild answers these needs.

The contributions of the Needlework Guild have a threefold result: They are important to the appropriate treatment of the youngsters; they give them much pleasure and security and they must bring to the members of the Guild a feeling of joy in the knowledge that they have played a most important role in the successful rehabilitation and return to society of these emotionally ill children.

MRS. LOUIS J. COLOMBO, JR.
3635 Lasher
Bloomfield Hills

DOWN TO EARTH

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Floral Sun Trap Makes Cozy Garden Quarters

Do you have a sun trap in your garden? This is a sheltered area which might be shaped like an elongated letter U with the open end facing south or east to provide favorable sun hours and protection from the wind.

A cozy place where you can sit with your husband and talk over the events of the day before dinner. You may wish to call it your tea garden.

In this enclosure you will have dainty flowers forming a border around the inside perimeter while the shape will be achieved by using small evergreens in the bed and shrubs for their texture.

THIS PROJECT is excellent to take to homebound persons. When making a call on the person, go equipped with the appropriate pots, tubs, and then your home-bound host will have the joy of watching a project he has planned plus the joy of exploring a new kind of plant few have ever planned.

You may be interested in the new development which will be on the market this year: miniature plants which was introduced by the University of Minnesota. It is very compact and crisp. The color is dark green with a high flavor.

There will be a new group of mums presented to the market by every grower for great big plants. It is very compact and crisp. The color is dark green with a high flavor.

THE accent at the tips of the letters U can be made by using spreading junipers which will grow fast (there are fast and slow growers). Upright evergreens would add to Mrs. Burlingame the permanent pattern at the base of the U.

Shrubs, which would give a good texture, would be Kousa Dogwood. A hedge of untrimmed berberis montensis is one of the best and good. A hedge of cork bark euonymus, coralberry, variegated dentaria and any of the shrub roses could also be used.

Either spring fever has taken over for your bones or the catatonic have given me new pep, but I have a feeling that our lazy days are nearing an end. So, I have lived it up while you may.

THIS IS A GOOD time to start gladiolus lilies for an early accent on your patio. By planting these tubers in a shallow 12-inch pot, about three per pot, you will have a great reward as they grow. The soil should be rich and woody which calls for plenty of peat moss mixed with regular soil.

The tubers look like cut-off pencil stubs. Place them flat on the surface of the rich soil which fills the pot to a line just below the collar. Then, place two inches of soil over the tubers which are lying flat.

These MUMS are known as the Bird Mums, and each will give the owner the bonus of winter hardiness, plus a heavy production of flowers. They have been named after the different birds because the flowers resemble in color the plumage of many choice birds.

Either spring fever has taken over for your bones or the catatonic have given me new pep, but I have a feeling that our lazy days are nearing an end. So, I have lived it up while you may.

THE fellow next door has had 50 pounds of muscle-building equipment mailed to him every week for the past year. We haven't noticed much of a change in our neighbor, but we now have the world's most perfectly developed mailman.

SNOWflakes would be lovely if they weren't so shovelly.

The chap who tore the first telephone directory in half was probably the father of a teenage daughter.

We work for a bigot. He thinks that words can be spelled only one way.

One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE W. AVERILL

There's a mighty big difference between a prayer and a speech. Too often today the introductory words "Let us pray . . ." lead into speeches.

The best prayers are simple ones. They are short. They are meaningful.

Christianity's greatest prayer (Matt. VI:9-13) contains only 66 words. It requires less than 30 seconds to say.

A philosopher is one who can look at a stony field and see the good earth.

When you are angry, you risk doing something you'll ever regret.

We've got a friend who is saving his money.

He figures it may be valuable again some day.

Even camels get thirsty. And eagles perch.

Then there was the peasant whose son was a farmer and whose grandson today is an agricultural expert.

People who really are important don't have time to act important.

All people are born equal. But some work harder than others.

Can you recall the last time you did something for someone else out of generosity, not self-gain?

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

If all goes well, that man in Rio who has shown so much interest in Birmingham is going to have visitors from our fair city.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Andrade, 919 W. Glenary Circle, planned to leave by air Tuesday for New York and a three-week trip to South America.

We say "planned" because their departure date hinges on settlement of the airlines' strikes which plagued the nation and metropolitan area last week.

"That man in Rio" is Tobias Jose de Castro, a self-styled ambassador of good will in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who has been communicating with Mayor Florence Willett and The Eccentric.

VISITING TOBIAS was Mrs. Andrade's idea—as a last-minute surprise for her husband. He's for it, too.

"I thought that would be kind of fun," she declared.

"It'll be interesting to see what he's like."

The Andrades will spend one week in Rio; then will fly to Montevideo, Uruguay; will spend three days in Trinidad; and will visit San Juan, Puerto Rico, for a week.

"We've never been south of Jamaica," said Mrs. Andrade. "It'll be different and fun for us, I think."

IN SAN JUAN, they'll call on the mayor, "a very charming woman" and "ambassador of goodwill," like our Mr. Castro—whom Mrs. Willett met at a recent mayor's convention in New York.

The Andrades will take with them pictures and brochures from Birmingham schools, the Chamber of Commerce and The Eccentric to deliver to Tobias.

MAYOR WILLETT has written to thank him

Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

Five out of six members of The Birmingham Eccentric news department write about sewers at least once a week.

They take the Art Carney attitude. You know —it's a part of the job.

Photographer Mary Sasak thinks the news department is crazy to be so concerned about "little things like sewers."

When digging started last week on a sewer project in Lathrop, he was sent out to get a dramatic photograph of the big event.

He came back with muddy shoes, spattered trouser cuffs, a mudged face and a dusty camera.

"Now I feel like I belong here!" he said with an exhausted sigh.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
MARCH 3, 1911

There is a most remarkable tri-anniversary John Heth's residence on West Maple, consisting of three old ladies, who are enjoying life in the comfortable home of one after another. . . in the comfortable home where Mrs. Heth takes delight in giving them. The eldest is Mrs. Mary Blumberg, the widow of Hiram Blumberg; the middle one is Phoebe Ellwood, the widow of Hiram Ellwood and Eunice Hall, sister of Mrs. Ellwood.

30 YEARS AGO
MARCH 5, 1931

Birmingham voters will go to the polls Monday to elect three village commissioners, a village clerk and two members of the library board. . . Following in the wake of a more heated township election it is expected that the village election will be comparatively light.

The Wanderer carries a new bill lagger arrive Tuesday on a truck, motivated by E. R. Meeker. The arrival is a wild, blue, and hat-bearing Indian, an antique acquire for the Helen Fitzmaurice auditorium next Tuesday evening. Years stood by the old Oxford Hotel in Detroit, now being dismantled.

15 YEARS AGO
FEB. 28, 1946

Two youthful Birmingham musicians, Kappy Pierce and Bert Bronson, are to be the soloists at the school band concert at Baldwin auditorium next Tuesday evening. Both of these young folk received high honors at the Southeastern Michigan Solo and Ensemble Festival last Saturday at Dearborn. Nancy plays the flute and Burton's special instrument is the tuba.

Barnum Junior High downed Berkeley 28 to 9 in Monday's basketball game. Barnum started off slowly but warmed up in the second quarter to build a big lead. The Barnum defense clicked again as Barnum saw to it that Berkeley didn't make more than three points in any one quarter.

Midweek services will be conducted at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. Ministers of neighboring Lutheran churches will be heard in a series of timely messages.

B'ham Military Cadet Makes Dean's List

Cadet Randolph Marshall Hamner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dunca H. Hamner, 2620 Walnut Lake, Birmingham, is among 70 Virginia Military Institute cadets in Lexington, Va., who have been named to the dean's honor list for the last academic term.

A second classman, Hamner is majoring in mathematics and is enrolled in Army ROTC. He is an Honor Court representative and a member of the tennis team. He is a 1955 graduate of Birmingham High School.